

The church doors swing to the inside, as if they remember me. Voices coming from the right, the meeting hall, greet me. I smile. The above lights seem to shimmer as they acknowledge an old friend. They always shine on quilters planning quilt shows, and glow as the quilters make table runners, placemats, and Christmas stockings.

Decades ago, our quilting group met there twice a month to laugh and giggle, to admire quilts made by the members, by friends. We still meet; however, we laugh and giggle at a different gathering place. However, these church doors open often for Community Services quilters

This morning, the DE stash Sale-O-Rama gathering opens the church doors to offer fat quarters, yards of fabric, vintage quilts, sewing machines, sergers, and books for purchase. This fund raiser for a quilting group brings in, not only monies for the groups' projects, but comradery.

A line to pay stretches to the left. I ease in between two buyers to make my way to the fat quarters. One of the quilters finds a padded bench to wait her turn to pay for the stash in her arms. "It's loud in here," she cautions. Conversation follows every lady. "Look at this yardage. It is just perfect for my grandchild's quilt," says one quilter. She searches deeper through the piles of fat quarters, measured yardage, and packaged ribbons, zippers.

"This is pretty," says a searcher. "Oh," says another, it's a good backing." "I thought of it as curtains," comes the next comment. Purple, orange, pink, blue flowers quiver and shake as a hand caresses the fabric.

The line to pay shortens as quilters leave. However, more arrive to take their place and the line to pay again has different quilters with the same conversations.

Fund raising is necessary as quilting groups sew together to make quilts for the community needs. Holiday fabric becomes popular for creating pumpkin themed placemats, and Christmas stockings for the Food Bank.

"If you get too warm," says a quilter who seems in charge of keeping us quilters happy during our search for the perfect project piece, "take your coat to the bench over there," she directs. Quilters are too busy to take the time. The bench is left for waiting in line to pay. Lana Russ